

Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Open Concourse
and Concourse Roof Extension (Union Station,
Open Concourse and Concourse Roof Extension)
1101 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1175-B

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37C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mid-Atlantic Region National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION, OPEN CONCOURSE AND CONCOURSE ROOF EXTENSION (Union Station, Open Concourse and Concourse Roof Extension)

HABS No. PA-1175-B

Location: 1101 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County,
Pennsylvania

Present Use: The southerly portion of the open concourse roof is
currently barricaded due to unsafe condition of the
structural frame. The concourse roof extension has been
demolished to allow construction of the busway mainline.

Present Owner: Port Authority of Allegheny County, Beaver and Island
Avenues, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15233

Significance: This architecturally and historically significant railroad
station symbolizes the importance of railroads to the
development of this region. The open concourse served as a
connecting area between the waiting room and the individual
track platforms. It permitted passengers to walk to the
many platforms with minimal crossing of tracks or
interference with train movements. The concourse extension
roof connected the former barrel-shaped train shed to the
open concourse roof. The train shed covered 14 tracks and
seven platforms. The concourse extension roof included a
venting system to allow steam locomotive exhaust smoke and
gasses to be carried above the patron platform and soot to
be collected in an overhead chamber instead of falling on
passersby.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of construction: commenced about 1892; completed by 1902
2. Architect: D.H. Burnham and Company
3. Original and subsequent owners: Pennsylvania Railroad owned the
station until succeeded by the Penn Central Railroad in 1968,
which was formed by the merger of the Pennsylvania and New York
Central Railroads. The station was acquired by Consolidated
Rail Corporation (Conrail) as a result of the Rail
Reorganization Act of 1976. The Port Authority of Allegheny
County purchased a portion of Conrail's Pittsburgh-to
Wilkesburg right-of-way for the East Busway Project. Included
in the purchase were the southerly portions of the open
concourse roof and the concourse extension roof. The station
proper has been conveyed by Conrail to the City of Pittsburgh
Urban Redevelopment Authority for intended resale to the Union
Station Development Company.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION, OPEN
CONCOURSE ROOF AND CONCOURSE ROOF
EXTENSION (Union Station, Open Concourse
Roof and Concourse Roof Extension)
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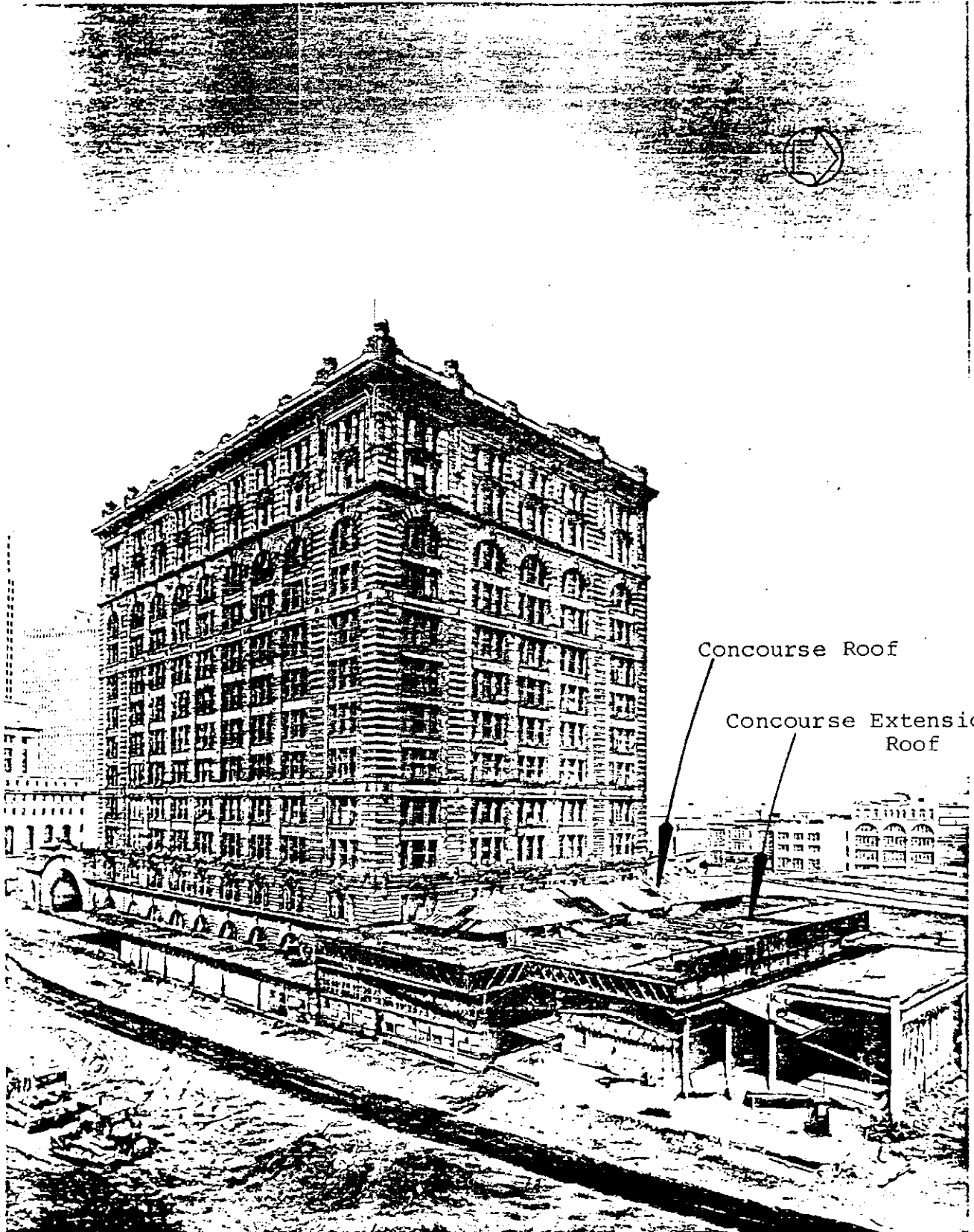
4. Original plans and construction: Original plans were retained by the railroad until 1982, when they were transferred to the Buncher Company, one of the partners in the Union Station Development Company.

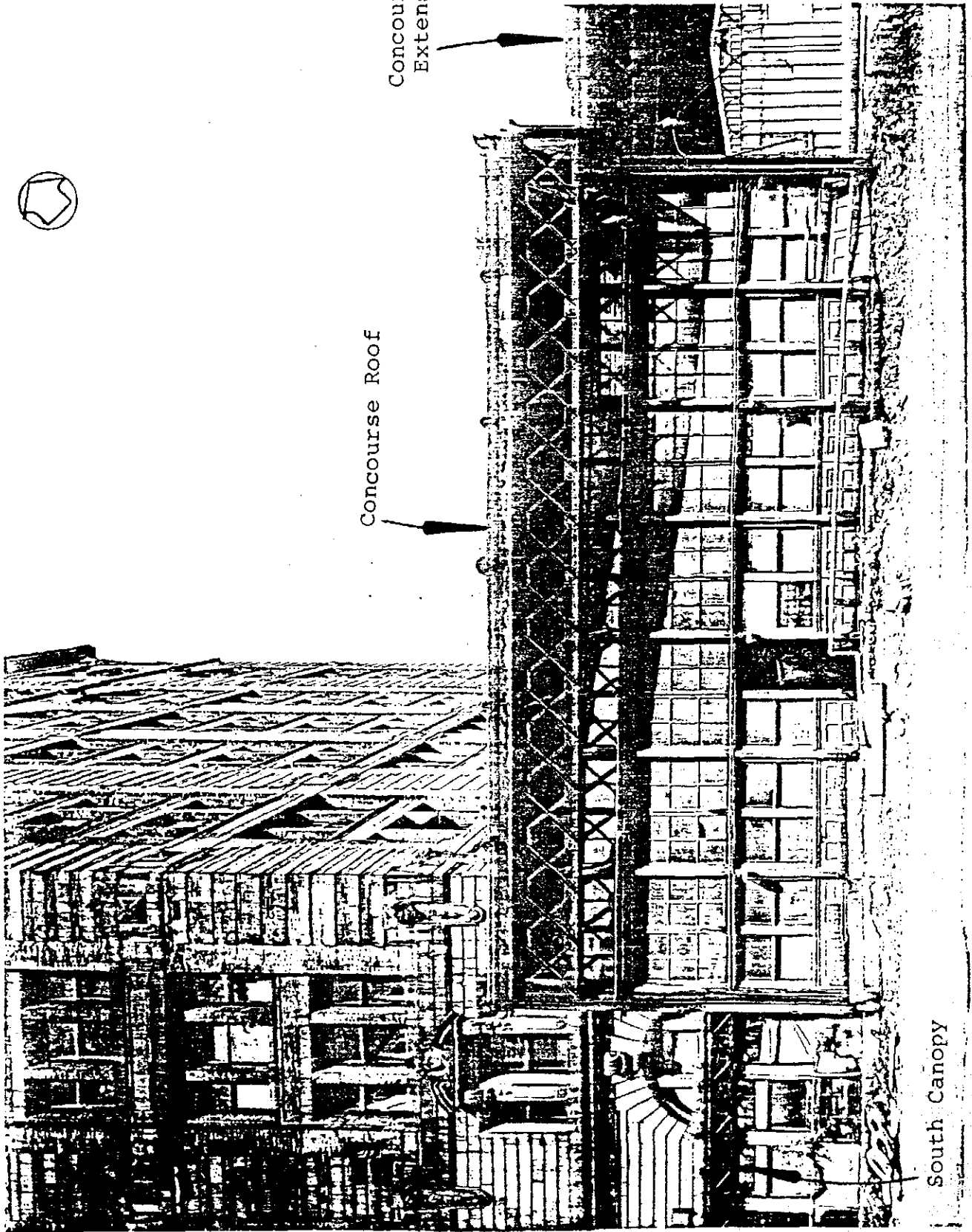
B. Historical Context: Please see HABS No. PA-1175-A.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The open concourse roof and concourse extension roof were constructed of steel lattice trusses supported on "H" columns and decorative cast posts. The roof of the open concourse was supported on iron purlins and infilled with terracotta tile, topped by concrete and built-up roof materials. This type of construction has contributed to the structure's deterioration as water has collected within and subsequently leaked out to flow down columns and across riveted iron joints.

Edited and transmitted by: Holly K. Chamberlain
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HABS
November 2, 1987





Concourse Roof

Concourse
Extension Roof

South Canopy

